

Casteel High School – Junior High FAQ

Teachers are hired, and the master schedule is created, based on student requests. Please give careful consideration to your sections, as we will be unable to accommodate elective changes after schedules have been created. We can't guarantee you will get all your electives but, counselors will do their best to accommodate your requests.

Electives:

- Courses only offered at Casteel will be listed in our Course Registration and Academic Planning Guide.
- Semester long courses can be taken in either Semester 1 or Semester 2.
- Any classes taken in Junior High will not be applied towards High School Transcripts.
- PE –
 - PE is not a requirement for Junior High.
 - This class is for all of Junior High and is co-ed
 - Athletic Physical Education (Also often called: APA) is a full year course, designed primarily for our 7th grader students who wish to participate on an athletic team
 - Students cannot have 2 PE electives in same semester
 - Academy classes are only offered for 8-12th graders
 - Rosters are based off coach approval. *Please reach out to the Coach if you have interest in registering for an academy.
- World Language 8th graders ONLY- This is a full-year high school level course– make sure you're ready!
 - Although this is a HS class, CUSD does not permit HS credit for 8th graders.
 - If you continue year 2 of the same language in 9th grade, this will go on your High School transcripts and satisfy the 2-year WL requirement for Colleges and Universities
 - Spanish 1
 - ASL 1
 - French 1
 - German 1

Orchestra:

Q: Do I need to have previous orchestra experience to join beginning orchestra?

A: No, you do not need experience to join Beginning Orchestra, everyone will be starting fresh.

Q: What instruments are available for beginning orchestra?

A: Beginning orchestra instruments include violin, viola, cello and bass.

Q: Will I need to audition for Cadet Orchestra?

A: No auditions are required for Cadet Orchestra, however if you would like to be placed into Concert Orchestra, you will have to play an audition to be placed in that group.

Q: If I took orchestra in 6th grade, but feel like I should start over again, can I take beginning orchestra?

A: Yes, if you struggled to learn your notes, you are welcome to join Beginning Orchestra to learn them again.

Q: If I want to play a new instrument should I take Beginning or Cadet Orchestra?

A: You should take Beginning Orchestra.

Q: Are there school instruments available to rent?

A: There are some instruments available. Wait until school starts and we will know exactly what is available. If not, you will receive recommendations.

Band:

Q: Do I need to have previous band experience to join beginning band?

A: No, you do not need experience to join beginning band, everyone will be starting fresh.

Q: What instruments are available for beginning band?

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A: Beginning band instruments include ALL wind instruments you would see in The Presidents Own Marine Band (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba)

Q: Will I need to audition for Cadet Band?

A: No auditions are required for Cadet Band, however if you would like to be placed into Concert Band, you will have to play an audition to be placed in that group.

Q: Can I join Percussion with zero experience?

A: Yes, you may, experience is preferred but if your heart really wants to go with Percussion please set up a time to speak with Dr. Jones so he can suggest how you'll be on track to be successful in that class.

Choir:

Q: "How do I audition for advanced choir and what is the audition like?"

A: students wanting to audition for Advanced Choir need to contact Mrs. Clausen to schedule an audition. The audition consists of singing a short solo such as My Country 'Tis of Thee, singing a major scale using solfege (do-re-mi) and sight reading.

Q: "What is the difference between the three levels of JH choir?"

A: Beginning choir is for anyone wanting to learn the basics. Open to boys and girls. No experience needed. Intermediate Girls' choir is for girls only and focuses on learning to sing in harmony. Advanced choir is audition-based and we learn to sing in 3-4 part harmony. Previous singing experience is necessary.